

**Testimony of Elijah Adonai – Meriden CT  
Supporting Bill 1195, An Act Concerning School Finance Reform  
Before the Appropriations Committee, Connecticut General Assembly  
Public Hearing, March 24, 2011**

Good Afternoon Co-Chairs Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding Senate Bill 1195.

My name is Elijah Adonai. I am in the 6th grade and a student at Lincoln Middle School in Meriden.

Please support Senate Bill 1195 to ensure all kids get the help they need to pass all of their grades and graduate high school.

I think supporting kids in school is crucial because a lot of kids drop out of high school because many kids feel that they did not get enough support in school from teachers and parents.

My two brothers Jemel and Quenton dropped out of High School but they decided to finish what they started, so one went back to school and the other went to Job Corp. My mother made sure that they finished.

This year in middle school it has been tough for me because I had trouble staying organized, doing my homework and I don't get along with some of my teachers, but that is not an excuse for me not doing my homework.

So then I started to go to an after school program, a few weeks ago, at the YMCA. I felt more listened to and I have to do my homework as part of the program. I started to finish more homework and I improved my grade.

I like to read but a teacher chooses books for me that I have no interest in. I should be able to choose my own books because I am reading above goal. All kids should be able to read great books and learn great things no matter where they go to school.

Please make sure that schools have the necessary support for all kids to be successful. Fund all kids equally because we are the future. At this time I will accept questions.

Thank You  
Elijah Adonai, Lincoln Middle School - 6th grade  
Meriden, CT 06451